What is BCS CeNLB?

As part of the BCS, the UK's professional body for computing, the Central and North London branches are a vibrant and diverse community of volunteers from a wide range of professional backgrounds.

The BCS CeNLB committees meet on a regular basis to plan events and discuss progress regarding ongoing initiatives, A list of our upcoming events can be found **here**. Some of our ongoing community intitiatives include the BCS NLB **Seniors**, **Eco** and **Innovation Hub** programmes. More information can be found by following this **link**.

BCS CeNLB Innovation Hub Initiative

The BCS CeNLB Innovation Hub initiative aims to build a community of London-based Innovation Hubs, enabling our member hubs to network, share ideas, collaborate, and invite creative discussion about cutting-edge innovation in technology.

Our community is growing fast...
We are very proud to have grown our community over the last few months, and to have welcomed a number of new Innovation Hubs to our community, including:

- *The London Office of Technology and Innovation*
- *CyLon*
- *London Tech Advocates*
- *TechUK*
- *IDEALondon*
- *Syndikat*
- *Emsol*
- *Geovation*

In this newsletter, we are pleased to showcase two of our new community members who have joined us recently, **Emsol** and **Geovation**.

SPOTLIGHT: EMSOL

Established in 2017, EMSOL's mission is to help our customers take steps every day to make a lasting difference in reducing transport pollution.

"Despite a raging global pandemic, EMSOL saw renewed commitment to the reduction of air pollution from both the public and private sectors. 2021 was a year of firsts for EMSOL.
First Crowdfund:
In 2021 EMSOL conducted its first crowdfund with Seedrs raising **£594,166 from 433 investors** bringing on board not only more funds but also a community of EMSOLites from over 33 countries who are committed to supporting and championing our cause, product and brand.
Recognition: In 2021 EMSOL was...

- Chosen by the Mayor of London's Resilience Fund to partner with Kings College London, Better Bankside and Nesta.
- Selected by the Cross River Partnership to monitor river freight on the Thames with Guys and St Thomas's hospitals.
- Awarded a place in the Technation's 2021 Net Zero cohort - highlighting EMSOL as a climate tech trailblazer.

... and finally

- Identified by Startus Insights as in the top 5 of start-ups worldwide addressing UN's SDG #11

Contract firsts:
2021 saw us expand construction-based projects with partners such as Clancy whilst also introducing major retail scale out opportunities with John Lewis. Public Sector contracts included work with Croydon and Merton Councils and a major first with NHS partners Guys and St Thomas's Hospitals Trust for site-based supply chain pollution tracking - both of which have laid solid foundations for expansion in these sectors in 2022.
First EMSOL Platform Version 1:
Over the last year EMSOL has achieved significant acceleration in platform capability and stability, incorporating feedback from last year's trial partners to hone the product proficiencies and continuing to build and develop the platform functions in accordance with customer and market need.

Caroline Overton
Marketing Executive @ EMSOL
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See Next Page

For SPOTLIGHTS on:
Geovation
and our recent
Smart Cities Round Table Event
Catch up here...
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69d7udLe9Ac

What's Next?

We are looking forward to growing our community further and invite anyone who is interested to get in touch at one of the below email addresses:

paul@nebel.io
katemarshall@ibm.com

Furthermore, following the success of our **Smart Cities Panel event** (see next page), we will be hosting our next discussion event on the *Metaverse* **on 30th March 2022.** More details to follow.

SPOTLIGHT:
Geovation

GEOVATION

Geovation was set up by **Ordnance Survey (OS)** in 2009 to support start-ups harness the opportunities of location data by growing innovative solutions to social, environmental and economic challenges.

Since 2009, Geovation has supported **over 130 location-data and PropTech start-ups** who have raised **more than £116m of funding and created over 1700 jobs**.

2021 saw the launch of the Diffuse Coastal Pollution Challenge in collaboration with the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO), as well as the first ever mentorship programme for the Geovation community.

It was also a busy year for many of our start-ups. **Carbon Co-op** won the Ashden Award at COP26 climate summit for Green Skills, **ProxyAddress** was named one of TIME's Best Inventions of 2021, **Flock** became the first Geovation venture that Ordnance Survey acquired equity in and **LandTech** secured £42 million in funding to expand their business.

The **focus** for Geovation has and always will be on **helping start-ups start up**. But the past two years of innovation under immense pressure has fostered a new sense of purpose at Geovation, giving rise to a new goal: to maximise positive impact by bringing people together and unlocking their potential, so that we all have a commercially, environmentally, and socially sustainable future. Globally, sustainability and achieving net zero is a top priority for governments and businesses.

Through Geovation, **we want to play an active role in supporting start-ups in this space.**

To find out more about Geovation, click **here**.

Matthew Keene
Senior Press Officer @ Ordnance Survey
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If you asked yourself, **what is PropTech?**

PropTech is a technology- first, innovative approach to real estate, in which we optimise the way we research, rent, buy, sell, and manage a property using industry-specialised technology. It is a unique differentiator because it benefits all parties including developers, investors, and property management companies – making it a recent buzzword in commercial real estate. **PropTech real estate startups** aim to implement this technology in order to make the real estate industry more efficient, and easier to navigate for everyone.

Ordnance Survey

SPOTLIGHT:

Are we being too smart for Smart Cities panel event:
9th December 2021

Late last year, Paul Nebel and Kate Marshall of the Innovation Hub community initative hosted a virtual panel discussion on the topic of Smart Cities, particularly focussing on:

- *What is the point of Smart Cities, and who is responsible for making cities smart?*
- *How do we make sure that the areas most in need of Smart City technology do not get left behind?*
- *What is the benefit of a Smart City without the money to be able to implement change as a result?*
- *Where do Smart Cities change from being technological tools to political tools?*
- *What should Smart Cities look like?*
- *How do Smart Cities actually make a difference, including examples where monitoring has effected change?*
- *Are we concentrating too much on developing the technology rather than on implementing and installing the sensors required to make cities smart?*

The event was a great success, with a large audience involved in encouraging positive discourse into how to implement ethical Smart Cities, as well as the more contentious topics around these implementations.

Catch up on the event recording by clicking here.

You can also read more about wider BCS discussion on Smart Cities here: https://www.bcs.org/articles-opinion-and-research/what-are-smart-cities-and-how-will-they-work/